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AEDC: 25 years of supporting the warfighter for AFMC

By AEDC Public Affairs

With more than two decades now under its wing, Air Force Materiel Command has provided 25 years of support to America's warfighters.

Since the dedication of the AFMC July 1, 1992, AEDC, an Air Force Test Center organization, has played a major role in warfighter development.

Headquartered at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, the command is based on the concept of Integrated Weapons System Management. This concept enables one command to provide "cradle to grave" development and support for weapon systems and gives Air Force operational commands a single source of expertise and support for their aerospace systems.

AFMC is responsible for weapon systems such as aircraft, missiles and spacecraft that are developed and acquired through AFMC's product centers, using science and technologies developed at their affiliated laboratories. The systems are then tested at the command's test centers and are serviced, overhauled and modified at its air logislives, aircraft are retired to AFMC's storage and reclamation facility in Arizona.

AFMC also provides support to other U.S. military services and allies in addition to its responsibility of handling major aerospace projects for the DOD.

AEDC is one of the main test at Arnold since 1999. and evaluation organizations for the AFB, AEDC also has operating loca-California; Eglin AFB, Florida; Holloman AFB, Kirtland AFB, New Mexico; and at Wright-Patterson AFB. AEDC ulate speed, temperature, pressure and other parameters over a wide range to meet the needs of aerospace system developers.

The Complex has provided AFMC with 25 years of testing the latest warfighters, such as the Air Force's F-22A Raptor and its Pratt & Whitney F119 engine, and the F-35 Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter and the Pratt & Whitney F135 engine.

Accelerated Mission Testing (AMT) of the F135-PW-100 Conventional



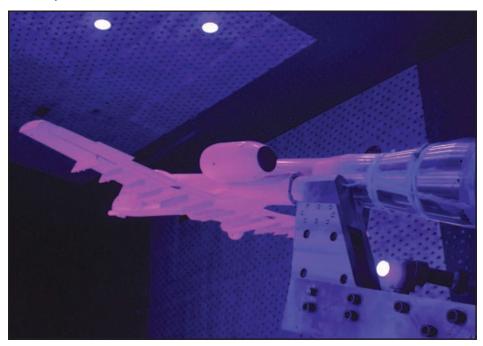
tics centers. At the end of their service Col. Kurt Gallegos, the 944th Fighter Wing commander, leads a four-ship formation with the A-10 Thunderbolt II, F-35 Joint Strike Fighter and F-15 Strike Eagle, during his fini-flight near Luke Air Force Base, Ariz., June 2. Scale models of the A-10, F-35 and F-15 have all undergone testing in the AEDC wind tunnel test facilities, and the Pratt & Whitney F135 engine for the F-35 has completed Accelerated Mission Testing in the sea level engine test cells at Arnold Air Force Base. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Larry E. Reid Jr.)

> Take Off and Landing/Carrier Variant (CTOL/CV) has taken place in the sea level test cells at Arnold Air Force Base. The F135 engine has been tested

Testing in the AEDC aerodynamic AFMC's AFTC. Based out of Arnold wind tunnels have even helped prepare the Navy variant of the F-35 Joint Strike tions at the Federal Research Center at Fighter for its first external weapons re-White Oak near Silver Spring, Mary- lease. It's been estimated that the 1/15th land; at Ames Research Center, in scale Lockheed Martin F-35 model has Mountain View, and at Edwards AFB, been tested in the AEDC 4-foot transonic wind tunnel for more than 3,300 user occupancy hours.

In addition, store separation testoffers a suite of test capabilities to sim- ing of the Advanced Short Range Airto-Air Missile has been conducted in AEDC wind tunnels. Separation testing of the ASRAAM, also known as the AIM-132, with the F-35 was last performed in the 4-foot transonic aerodynamic wind tunnel at the Propulsion Wind Tunnel facility in 2008. The test objective was to investigate the separation characteristics of several armaments, which included the AIM-132 as well as the AIM-9X, AIM-120C,

See **SUPPORTING**, page 2



AEDC contributions to the warfighter

A model of an A-10 Thunderbolt II, more commonly known as "The Warthog" due to its unique shape, underwent a pressure-sensitive paint (PSP) test in the AEDC 16-foot transonic wind tunnel in 2013. PSP was used to get surface pressure data on the model. (U.S. Air Force photo)



Maj. Gen. Harris speaks at 2017 **AEDC Fellows Banquet**

Maj. Gen. David A. Harris, the Air Force Test Center commander and speaker for the 2017 AEDC Fellows Banquet, is shown with retired Maj. Gen. Mike Wiedemer, AEDC Fellow and Arnold Community Council Fellows Committee chairman, at Arnold Air Force Base June 23. Five current and former AEDC employees were inducted as AEDC Fellows during the banquet. (Courtesy photo/ Claude Morse)

See AEDC Fellows photos on page 4.

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Dogwood Ridge opens for lodgers







Col. Rodney Todaro Commander

> **Jason Austin** Chief, **Public Affairs**



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Core Values

- · Integrity first Service before self
- Excellence in all we do



"NAS will be integral to the success of AEDC, the U.S. Air Force's premier aerospace testing facilities, while applying the highest standards of ethics, innovation, safety, security, and quality to daily

Values

Ethics. We are uncompromising in our integrity, honesty, and fairness. Safety & Health. We are relentless in keeping people safe from harm, and we provide a safe and healthy work

 Security. We are disciplined and vigilant in protecting sensitive AEDC information and ensuring system integrity to support national security and our customers Excellence. We thrive on challenge accomplishment, and mission succe Quality. We are passionate about doing our work right the first time.

environment.

· People. We have a mission-focused inclusive workforce who have a diverse skill set, are committed to success demonstrate innovation and have a car

· Culture. Our team is proud of our diversity, inclusiveness, and collaborative work environment. We are proud of what we do and how we do it.

· Relationships. We build positive, longterm business relationships through trust respect, and collaboration.

 Innovation. We overcome challenges through creativity, perseverance, technology, and flexibility. We actively seek to

continually improve · Sustainability. We plan and act for the long term benefit of our communities and our environment.

Area youth have a blast at this year's AIAA RocketDay! event

By Deidre Ortiz

AEDC Public Affairs

The second annual RocketDay! Competition for area youth was held June 17 at the Hands-On Science Center (HOSC) in Tullahoma.

The event, sponsored by the Tennessee Section of American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, and the Arnold Air Force Base Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Center, featured various contests and activities for families. Youth taking part in the competition ranged from toddlers to high school students.

As part of the event, the Cool-Two Rocket Competition was once again held. This competition invites students from fifth grade through high school to create an elaborate, innovative rocket from a two-liter bottle. Entries included everything from flying pigs to black widow spiders. Some rockets used homemade systems made with PVC with a rubber stopper and bicycle pump while others used materials and equipment obtained from the Arnold AFB STEM Center, which enabled bottle pressures of up to 80 pounds per square inch and launches of greater than 100 feet in the air.

First place was won by a solid traditional design, created by Bradley Escue, which wowed the judges by its high lofting flight with a perfectly stable ballistic trajectory. Zack Sheeley took second place with his elaborate black widow design which had glowing red eyes and spit out red water during its maiden flight. Third place was won by Clay Taylor, with his flying pig, complete with a rounded-snout from which a parachute deployed.

The first and second place winners won drones and the third place winner received a gift certificate for the Hands-On Science Center gift shop.

Dr. Taylor Swanson, member of the AEDC Analysis and Evaluation Branch and volunteer for the event commented that RocketDay! 2017 was enjoyable for both participants and event volunteers.

"Attendance this year was greater than last year and we hope this trend continues," Swanson said. "One of the two liter rockets was made to look like a pig and another to resemble a spider. At what other event can you see a pig fly?"

Deb Wimberly, director of the HOSC, said it was an honor to host the event.

"Thank you AIAA for hosting the second annual Rocket Day at the Hands-On Science Center," she said. "It was a beautiful, sunny Saturday, and a great time was had by both kids and adults."

Col. Raymond Briggs, Chief of the AEDC Test Sustainment Division and volunteer for the event added, "The creativity of the Cool-Two entrants was inspiring. It was a lot of fun to talk to the kids on where they gained their inspiration, what gave them trouble, and how they thought their rockets performed. Good

Dr. Joe Sheeley, AEDC technology engineer and RocketDay! event organizer, said even more activities are planned for the 2018 competition.

"Next year we're planning to expand the competitions at the event," he said. "We'll have a contest called 'recycled rockets' where competitors build static models of existing or whimsical spacecraft using things like cans, bottles and popsicle sticks. We will also expand into drones, adding perhaps a drone race and a yet-tobe-defined competition called 'drone wars,' in which teams will compete with multiple drones to move objects around in some sort of game area."

members for their continued support of the event.



The first place winner at the 2017 RocketDay! event was Bradley Escue, whose rocket wowed the judges by its high lofting flight with a perfectly stable ballistic trajectory. RocketDay! was held for area youth on June 17 at the Hands on Science Center in Tullahoma. Pictured left to right are: Joe Sheeley, RocketDay organizer; Deb Wimberly, director of the Hands-On Science Center; and Escue. (Courtesy photos/Tanya Sheeley)



Several water and air rocket launchers were setup at RocketDay! allowing participants to launch rockets, ranging from a homemade system made with PVC with a rubber stopper and bicycle pump to a system from the Arnold Air Force Base STEM Center which enabled bottle pressures of up to 80 pounds per square inch and launches of greater than 100 feet in the air. Pictured is Clay Taylor with his flying pig. RocketDay! was held June 17 at the Hands-On Science Center in Tullahoma.



Sheely also thanked Jere Matty, Arnold AFB STEM The Cool-Two entries at the RocketDay! competition, shown here, ranged from director, as well as the Tennessee Section of AIAA a flying pig to a black widow spider. About 30 area youth participated in Rocket-Day! held June 17 at the Hands-On Science Center in Tullahoma.

SUPPORTING from page 1

(1,000-pound Joint Direct Attack Munition) and Paveway IV, from internal and external weapons stations of the Short Take-off and the test have supported internal and external conventional weapons in the AEDC Propul- X-32 and X-33, X-35, XB-70 Valkyrie.

AGM-154 Joint Stand-off Weapon, GBU-32 weapons separation characteristic evaluations sion Wind Tunnel facility. and structural analyses for various aircraft weapons loadings.

Vertical Landing and Carrier Variant versions manned Combat Air Vehicle have also used con, F/A-18 Hornet and F/A-18 Super Hornet, of the JSF aircraft. Test data included store AEDC latest technology for test before flight, F-105 Thunderchief, F-111 Aardvark, F-117A freestream, pseudo-freestream (i.e. aircraft such as Pressure Sensitive Paint technology. Nighthawk, C-5 Galaxy, C-17 Globemaster model in tunnel), aerodynamic grid, captive The B-2 Spirit bomber is another that has un- III, C-141Starlifter, B-1B Lancer, B-2 Spirit, trajectory and captive loads. Results from dergone store separation testing to validate B-52 Stratofortress, B-58 Hustler, X-15, X-29,

Other aircraft tested in AEDC test facilities over the years include A-10 Thunderbolt II, The Air Force's Global Hawk and Un- F-14 Tomcat, F-15 Eagle, F-16 Fighting Fal-

Smoking Policy

- The following revised Arnold AFB smoking policy is effective immediately and applies to all individuals on Arnold AFB.
- Traditional Tobacco products (e.g. cigars and cigarettes):
 - a. Smoking is permitted solely in Designated Tobacco Areas (DTAs) identified by designated signage. If no signage exists, smoking is not permitted in that area. It is the responsibility of all smokers to keep DTAs
 - clean of cigarette butts. b. Tobacco use on the Arnold AFB Golf Course is permitted, but discouraged based on the health hazards of tobacco use and secondhand smoke. No smoking is permitted within 50 feet of golf course buildings except in the approved DTA.
 - c. Smoking in government-owned/leased vehicles is strictly prohibited. Personnel are allowed to smoke in their personal vehicles at any time; however, at no time will personnel discard cigarette butts outside their vehicle. d. For government employees, the fact that a person smokes has no bearing on the number of breaks they
 - may take. Breaks should be taken in accordance with the current supervisory and personnel policies that afford all employees the same break opportunities consistent with good work practices and accomplishment of the mission. Smokeless Tobacco products (e.g. snuff and dip):
- Smokeless tobacco products are not to be restricted to DTAs. Smokeless tobacco use will be permitted in all workplace areas (inside and out) subject to reasonable safety and sanitary conditions. Specifically, containers of tobacco waste product, including sealed containers, must not be left unattended or disposed of in trash receptacles. Users of smokeless tobacco must flush tobacco waste down the toilet.
- Electronic Cigarettes (also known as "e-cigs"): Pursuant to Air Force Instruction (AFI) 40-102, Tobacco Free Living, e-cigs are considered to be equivalent to tobacco products; however, e-cigs are not restricted to DTAs and are allowed to be used outdoors at a minimum distance of 25 feet from building entry/egress points. (This policy is dated July 27, 2016)

Action Line

I believe in free and open communications with our Team AEDC employees, and that's why we have the Action Line available. People can use the Action Line to clear up rumors, ask questions, suggest ideas on improvements, enter complaints or get other issues off their chests. They can access the Action Line via the AEDC intranet home page and by calling 454-6000.

Although the Action Line is always available, the best and fastest way to get things resolved is by using your chain of command or by contacting the organization directly involved. I encourage everyone to go that route first, then if the situation isn't made right, give us a chance.

> Col. Rodney Todaro **AEDC Commander**

Arnold AFB Natural Resources harvesting comes with some guidelines

By Raquel March

AEDC Public Affairs

When local residents or provided in the permit. transient visitors pass through the Arnold Air Force Base Natural Resources area, they may have an intent to pick blackberries or gather firewood.

begin there are some guidemust follow.

According to the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan, blackberries and blueberries may be harvested by the public for personal condeemed safe and do not interfere with military missions. A permit isn't required for harvesting blackberries or blueberries at Arnold.

The sale of firewood permits to the general public for \$5 is conducted through the Agency at any time.

Arnold AFB Services office for structions and terms of use are

Permittees have two weeks from the date of purchase to exercise the permit. No firewood cutting is allowed on weekends during the deer hunting sealines residents and visitors to firewood length. Log length wood may not be removed and cut off-site. Individual permit holders may not remove more than five truck- or trailer-loads of firewood per year. Permittees may neither sell nor exsumption only in areas that are change any cut material. The permit must be kept in the possession of the permittee at all times while cutting, loading and hauling firewood and are subject to a compliance inspection by Arnold AFB or the Tennessee Wildlife Resources

tops and debris from roadways and drains and are required to comply with applicable governing regulations, federal state and local law, and safety standards.

It is not lawful to harvest Before any of these actions son. Only downed trees may any other plants or forest prodbe cut on site and must be cut ucts within the 40,000 acres at

Remember Safety

When harvesting items at Arnold, there are some safety precautions to keep in mind.

Anyone planning to enter into the lands and forest of Arnold AFB should stop at one of the two Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency, or TWRA, Hunters Information Kiosks to obtain latest local conditions, safety information, hunting season dates and indigenous wild-

cutting on base property. In- are required to remove all cut When coming from Tullahoma Always remember the golden traveling East on Wattendorf rule - If you didn't drop it, Highway, a kiosk is immediately on the right at the corner of tion on identification and how Harton Boulevard as you enter to respond to finding a UXO the base property. Another kigravel road as you exit Inter- the munitions remediation prostate 24 traveling west on Wattendorf Highway and enter base property.

> Army live-fire training during WWII and unidentified explosive ordinance, known as UXOs, still exist today. Designated walking trails and recreand cleared of UXOs.

mines are still occasionally found by hunters and hikers in time. the forest of Arnold AFB even after years of munitions reme- proper clothing and shoes for diation programs efforts to lo- the environment.

Permittees cutting fire wood life materials, and warnings. cate and dispose of such items. don't pick it up. More informacan be found at a TWRA kiosk. osk is located on the first right. If you have any questions about gram, call 454-4353.

> Never go alone, if possible, and always let someone know Arnold AFB was used for your plan. Cell phone coverage on Arnold AFB is limited and you may not be able to contact help should you need it. Let someone know exactly where you are going and what time ational areas have been swept you will return. You can even use Google Maps to pinpoint Items such as mortars, rock- the destination and give the ets, grenades and anti-tank GPS coordinates to someone else should you fail to return in

> > Stay hydrated and wear the

AIAA Tennessee Section presents 2017 Awards

The American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics Tennessee Section recently held an annual awards luncheon where professional engineers were recognized for their significant technical accomplishments, outstanding achievements and support to AIAA Section activities.



Jim Burns Booster Award: In recognition of outstanding advocacy and support of STEM outreach events within the community



Dustin Crider Booster Award: In recognition of exceptional leadership and service to the AIAA TN Section



Joseph Giuffrida Billy J. Griffith Engineering Analysis Award: In recognition of exemplary Test & Evaluation support to an acquisition program using a store separation analysis methodology that combines computational modeling and ground test data



Doug Garrard Special Award: For technical contributions and orchestrating facility requirements for the first Aerodynamic and Propulsion Test Unit direct connect test



Sara Rhodes Special Award: For outstanding wind tunnel test support leading to the successful demonstration of a prototype swirl generator



Chris Rudolf Special Award: For developing and applying innovative measurement techniques in support of arc heater test facilities



Mark Smith Special Award: For his leadership and technical contributions in completing rigorous facility analyses to demonstrate the mid-pressure arc heater capability



Joseph Sheely The General H. H. Arnold Award: In recognition of his outstanding contributions toward advancing the state of the art of the aerodynamic and astronautical sciences

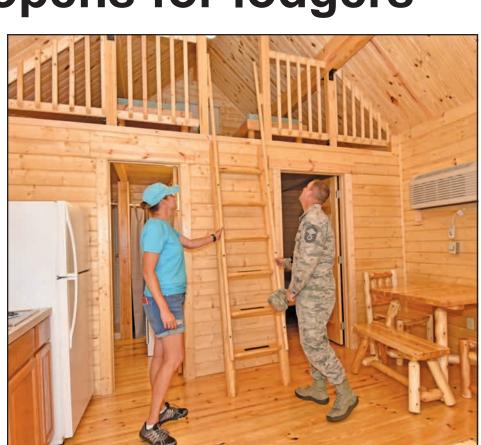


David Beale The General H. H. Arnold Award: In recognition of his outstanding contributions toward advancing the state of the art of the aerodynamic and astronautical sciences

Dogwood Ridge opens for lodgers



John McKelvey, Arnold Air Force Base Services Branch, AEDC Commander Col. Rodney Todaro and David Wilhite, Arnold AFB Civil Engineering Branch, cut the ribbon at the grand opening and ceremony June 20 for the Dogwood Ridge recreation area at Arnold Air Force Base. Dogwood Ridge has four fully equipped cabins with access to Woods Reservoir shore and beach area. Each cabin has heat and air, a kitchenette, bathroom, downstairs and loft bedroom, living room, and dining area. All cabins have a double bed, two twin beds and a futon which folds out to a double bed. (U.S. Air Force photo/Rick Goodfriend)



Participants take a tour of a cabin during the Dogwood Ridge recreation area grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony June 20, 2017 at Arnold Air Force Base. (U.S. Air Force photo/Rick Goodfriend)



Five inducted at AEDC **Fellows Banquet**

Five current and former AEDC employees were inducted as AEDC Fellows during a banquet and induction ceremony June 23 at the Arnold Lakeside Center, Arnold Air Force Base. AEDC Fellow Dr. Bill Kimzey presents the AEDC Fellows plaque to new AEDC Technical Fellow Bill Bates. (Courtesy photos/Claude Morse)



Cyndi Clower-Profferer assists AEDC Craft Fellow Bill Scott in pinning new **AEDC Craft Fellow Pete French.**



AEDC Fellow Dr. Jim Mitchell presents an AEDC Fellow Plaque to new AEDC Lifetime Achievement Fellow Dave Minto.



AEDC Fellow Dr. Bill Kimzey pins Barbara Callens (center) the widow of new AEDC Technical Fellow Dr. Gene Callens while son Eric (right) watches.



AEDC Craft Fellow Bill Scott pins new AEDC Craft Fellow Annette McCullough

What you should know about excavating and trenching safety

By AEDC Safety

The goal of the monthly Safety Excavations, Condition Campaigns is to identify conditions that make compliance requirements regarding exposure with safety requirements a challenge, to ensure we are in compliance with the Air Force safety standards, and to establish consistency across our

these focus areas: fall protection, barricades and signs, lockout/ tagout, confined spaces, electrical hot work and lifting and rigging. Our efforts have so far resulted in successfully identifying areas that need to be improved. In each case, a short term solution was identified longer term fixes has begun. Thanks to all who have participated in this campaign to date. Your actions are making our workplace safer.

Safety Condition Campaign focus is Excavation and Trenching.

Safety, Health and Environmental Standard C6 on Excavations, Trenching and Shoring describes the tasks, activities and actions required when excavations or trenching operations are to be performed at Arnold Air Force Base.

principal hazard excavation work is death by suffocation or crushing when exposed soil falls and buries the workers. Workers are also subjected to hazards of falling materials, tools, equipment, and to the hazards involving with digging into energized/pressurized utilities such as electrical, water, steam, fuel and natural gas lines. An additional concern is the potential for an oxygen-deficient atmosphere. Muddy conditions (common to excavations) increase dangers of slips and falls. Hazards of striking against or being struck by objects are increased by congestion of personnel, materials, and equipment. Additionally, vibrations from heavy equipment or nearby vehicle traffic can cause soil to become unstable and collapse.

Employees are expected to know the hazards associated with their work in and around excavations and ensure these hazards are properly addressed according to training for August is scaffolding.

received.

The SHE Standard C6 for Trenching Shoring also has the following vehicles/equipment:

Employees are not normally allowed in an excavation, in close proximity (closer than 10 feet) to work locations. We will continue heavy equipment, and must remain to send out periodic updates on our visible and out of the swing zone while the equipment is digging; We have already completed however, it is recognized that it sometimes becomes necessary for a person to enter an excavation for the purpose of guiding the equipment operator when digging is required in close proximity to a known buried object, or when an unknown buried object is detected. When it becomes necessary for and the process for identifying a person to enter the excavation and be in close proximity to heavy equipment, while it is digging, the following shall apply:

- For the month of July, our Contractor Safety and Health shall be notified and shall approve the entry for AEDC This can be employees. accomplished telephonically; in addition, the following is required for all personnel:
 - 1. A member of supervision/ management shall be present,
 - 2. When excavation is deeper than 4 feet, the employee shall be protected by adequate protective system(s) and shall not be allowed outside of protected area.
 - 3. Employees outside of and exposed to vehicular traffic shall be provided with and be required to wear reflective vests or other suitable garments marked with or made of reflectorized or highvisibility materials.
 - 4. Trained flag persons, signs, signals, and barricades shall be used when necessary.
 - Exposure to Falling Loads:
 - 1. No person shall be permitted under loads handled by lifting or digging equipment.
 - No employee shall remain near a vehicle being loaded or unloaded. Operators may remain in the enclosed cab of the vehicle.

The Safety Condition Campaign

ICBM Country: Ogden Air Logistics Complex restoring Air Force's nuclear launch facilities

By Micah Garbarino

75th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

HILL AIR FORCE BASE, Utah -Editor's Note: Hill Air Force Base units are helping ensure the nuclear triad remains an effective strategic deterrent now and into the future. This is the first in a two part series.

For more than 50 years, rural American pastures in the Great Plains have housed a key leg in the air, land and sea based strategic deterrent triad – missionready Airmen controlling highly-survivable, nuclear-armed Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missiles.

Depot-level maintenance of the boosters, launch control centers, launch facilities, and key support equipment for the Minuteman III is performed by Hill's 309th Missile Maintenance Group, part of the Ogden Air Logistics Complex.

The Air Force has 150 launch facilities and 15 associated launch control centers "deployed in place" at each of three locations - Malmstrom AFB, Montana; Minot AFB, North Dakota; and F.E. Warren AFB, Wyoming. The Airmen and ICBMs are "on strategic alert" around the clock to respond to orders from the President.

To comply with the New START treaty, the United States is reducing the number of ICBMs that are on strategic alert from 450 to 400 leaving 50 launch facilities in reserve. This enables the Air Force to plan and execute a Programmed Depot Maintenance (PDM) effort for the first time in the life of the weapon system.

The launch facilities are underground silos, each with a 110-ton blast door for protection. All of the silos are networked together and controlled by Missile Combat Crew members in underground blastproof launch control centers.

This is the first time since 1971, when the Minuteman III first became operational at Minot AFB, that a portion of the Minuteman III fleet is being relieved of its combat assignment long enough to receive PDM in the same way aircraft have



A new storage container used for maintaining missile launch facilities and control centers sits on display Jan. 25 at Hill Air Force Base, Utah. (U.S. Air Force photo by Todd Cromar)

systems to full mission capability – repair water leaks, mitigate corrosion, and generally posture the weapons system to remain safe, secure and reliable until the Ground Based Strategic Deterrent program (next generation ICBM) can achieve full mission capability in the mid-2030's," said Col. Eric Jackson, commander of the 309th Missile Maintenance Group. "These are all things we couldn't do as effectively – or at all – while the launch facility was on strategic alert."

The entire Minuteman III fleet will be inspected and restored during the course of an eight-year cycle. The maintenance process takes about 50 days for each launch facility or launch control center.

The effort targets four major areas "We're taking advantage of that draw- through an eight-year cycle: launch fa-

gine, said Lt. Col. Lt. Col. Brian Young, product support technical director, at the Air Force Nuclear Weapons Center, in a Hill, it is returned to the field and placed recently published Air Force story.

Within the launch facilities and launch control centers, there are a variety of components targeted to ensure the PDM. readiness and health of the site, including shock isolators, various launcher closure components, overpressure-protecting blast valves and blast doors, and environmental control system components, Young said.

As each of the 50 launch facilities are placed into the rotating reserve status for maintenance, the booster is removed from the launch facility by Airmen from fective," Jackson said.

down to restore vital hardness-critical cility, launch control center, solid-rocket the operating wing and returned to Hill booster (stages 1, 2 and 3), and liquid- AFB by 309th MMXG drivers, where propellant propulsion system rocket en- they undergo programmed depot mainte-

> After the booster PDM is completed at in a newly-repaired launch facility which is then returned to strategic alert to make way for the next launch facility to receive

> "As a result of the hard work and diligence of the depot and field maintainers, supported by government and contractor supply-chain partners and guided by exceptional engineers and program managers from the AF Nuclear Weapons Center, the nation can rest easy knowing the Minuteman III and associated systems will remain, ready, alert and combat ef-

ICBM Country: Hill AFB workers play key role in future of strategic defense

By Micah Garbarino

75th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

HILL AIR FORCE BASE, Utah (AFNS) – Editor's Note: Hill Air Force Base units are helping ensure the nuclear triad remains an effective strategic sophisticated anti-ballistic deterrent now and into the future. This is the second in a two part series.

The nation needs a robust nuclear deterrent. Not just any missiles, but the most responsive strategic weapon systems in the world.

The Air Force is responsible for two legs of the U.S. strategic nuclear triad, intercontinental ballistic missiles and bombers. Airmen, civilian employees and contractors at Hill AFB are working hard to provide that strategic ICBM need by overseeing the Ground Based Strategic Deterrent program, the ICBM for the future.

Why a new weapon system?

For more than 50 years the Air Force's ICBMs and the Airmen who operate and maintain them have helped ensure peace by operating and sustaining this leg of the nuclear triad.

"We have Airmen right now, as we speak, defending the homeland, and that nuclear deterrent underwrites every military operation on the globe," said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein, in a recent speech

prioritizing the nuclear en- for a new weapon system. terprise. He also noted that Attrition of Minuteman III while conventional wars go drives our schedule," said on, the major nuclear pow- Col. Heath Collins, the ers have not gone to war Air Force Nuclear Weapsince World War II because ons Center's ICBM Sysof the deterrence nuclear tems Directorate's Ground weapons provide.

As nations develop more System program manager. missile systems, the U.S. needs a weapon system that can effectively survive those capabilities and provide a credible threat. The current ICBM, the Minuteman III, if required, due to current has technology that was developed in the 1960s. Since nance programs, such as Minuteman III missiles are no longer in production, inventory will dwindle in the coming years due to testing and attrition issues as the missiles provide near 24/7 alert coverage.

"Future capability requirements drive the need Based Strategic Deterrent

However, while the Minuteman III is typical of a system decades past its original design life, Collins is confident they are viable for another 30 years, sustainment and mainteprogrammed depot main-

What's next?

The Air Force determined the most cost-effective way to increase ICBM

See **DEFENSE**, page 6

'Voice' winner launching AF tour

By Carole Chiles Fuller

Air Force Civil Engineer Center Public Affairs

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, Texas (AFNS) - Sundance Head, the winner of NBC's "The Voice" season 11, is ready and eager to bring his original soul country music to Air Force audiences.

As part of its initiative to bring quality entertainment to Airmen and their families, the Air Force Services Activity was just as eager to sign the Texas music artist to a 10-base tour.

"When Sundance Head won 'The Voice' in December, we started to arrange for him to play on Air Force bases," said Jeri White, the AFSVA entertainment program manager. "We selected him because we felt he would appeal to a majority of people, including our younger Airmen."

Head's career has taken off after his victory on the singing competition. He toured with his on-air mentor and country music star, Blake Shelton over the winter. came an "overnight success" through In June, he won the Texas Regional Radio Association award for best new male vocalist and had his first No. 1 hit on the Texas charts with "13 Years," a song he wrote for his wife, Misty; and he played the "mother church of country music," the Grand Old Opry in Nashville, Tennessee, with Shelton.

"We're going to come into town, and, hopefully, we're going to provide one of the best concerts they've ever seen. That's always the goal. We're just a threepiece band. We just play real music with real instruments. We don't have anything looped, don't have anything tracked. We seeks. "We want to support rising stars

bunch of really amazing people. We can't wait, so come see the show," Head said.

Head said he and bassist, Dropkick Dave Walters and drummer Big Joe Busa are thrilled to be playing for and meeting Airmen and their families.

"Mostly, I just really want to meet our Airmen and shake their hands and thank them for everything that they've done for America. That's the most important thing to me. It's not about me - I understand that, and I want them to know that, too,"

Head credits Misty with coming up with the term "soul country" in an effort to get his original music played on the radio and attract booking agencies. Since "The Voice," he said, "Suddenly there are soul country singers all over social media."

"For me, it's just writing really cool songs and singing everything from the depths of your soul and giving your whole heart to every lyric."

Head, who is from Porter, Texas, beresiliency, honing his craft and making a living performing in Texas. But what he wanted to do was make an impact on music, so he took a chance and tried out for "The Voice."

"I felt like we had put in the hard work in Texas to make sure we had the stage presence and relatability to the audience that you really could only have perfected through hard work and many, many hours of singing in bars large enough for only 10-15 people, or sometimes only to my wife running sound," he said.

He is the type of entertainer AFSVA just want to come play real music for a while bringing quality entertainment

Soul country singer/songwriter Sundance Head launched his tour of 10 Air Force installations at Beale Air Force Base, California, June 30. (Courtesy photo/Meredith Truax)

to our Airmen and their families. These kota, Sept. 22; F.E. Warren AFB, Wyoconcerts give Airmen and their families the opportunity to attend a concert, at no charge to them, at their base," White said.

more remote and isolated, she added.

"Airmen stationed there do not have the same opportunities for entertainment as those stationed in or near metropolitan areas. Another consideration in selecting bases for tour stops is logistics. The concerts should be grouped geographically and fit in with the entertainer's concert schedule," she said.

The tour launches at Beale Air Force Base, California, June 30; and includes Vandenberg AFB, California, July 3; Edwards AFB, California, July 4; Hill AFB, Utah, Aug. 24; Mountain Home AFB, Idaho, Aug. 25; Malmstrom AFB, Montana, Aug. 27; Grand Forks AFB, North Dakota, Sept. 21; Minot AFB, North Da-

ming, Sept. 24; and Altus AFB, Oklahoma, Oct. 5.

"We are hoping the Air Force tour Head's tour will include bases that are will be a great experience for him and the installations, so we can send him out to more locations. We encourage bases to give the entertainers a look into our world, a glimpse into an Airman's life and our different career fields. Once the artists experience it, they're hooked on performing for the Air Force because the bases welcome them into the Air Force family," White said.

> Other upcoming entertainment tours from AFSVA are with illusionists Mike Super and Jason Michael. Super is touring 18 locations in July and August and Michael is touring in September and October. Both provide family-friendly shows, which have been well-received at installations previously, White said.

DEFENSE from page 5

capabilities was to acquire Minuteman III. It would ated systems. Now, around an entirely new weapon be like taking your VHS system, the GBSD. De- player and trying to make veloping and fielding this it a Blu-Ray player by system has been called a swapping out parts," Col- more Air Force civilians "foundational" priority by lins said. service leaders.

these capabilities and we Systems Directorate al- across five different states, can't just make incre- ready sustain the Minute- control centers, command mental improvements to man III and all the associ- and control infrastruc-

Government and con-"The warfighter needs tract workers at the ICBM 400 missiles, 450 silos

300 of them are playing a large part in development of the future ICBM. Fifty are being added this year.

"It's a big program –

ture, thousands of miles 250 discussions with indusof cables, transportation equipment," Collins said. the existing infrastructure, derstand exactly what the like the silos, the entirety needs to be engineered for the new missile."

Who will build it and what's Hill AFB's role?

The new weapon system will be produced by a detense contractor, selected by the Air Force after a design competition. To begin the process, the GBSD program office at Hill AFB created a library for the bidders with hundreds of documents, along with a weapon system specification and capability requirements to guide the companies in their design process.

"We've provided wealth of information. Even before we presented the request last year, we released five draft requests for proposals to industry and received comments back. We had more than

try to review the request," Collins said. "We want to "While we'll use some of make crystal-clear they ungovernment is looking for. We are being as transparent as possible to better inform them and, in turn, receive better proposals from them."

> The program is currently in the Technology Matuphase, which means defense contractors are simultaneously preparing "endto-end" preliminary designs of a full weapon system. Up to two of the companies will be awarded 36-month development contracts by the end of this fiscal year.

Eventually, the competition will be narrowed to one supplier who will finish the final design of the weapon system and produce missiles to be tested and fielded. The plan is for the first missiles to be produced by the late 2020s and fielding will be completed in the 2030s, Collins said.

During the entire time, the men and women of the **ICBM Systems Directorate** will continue to oversee the process.

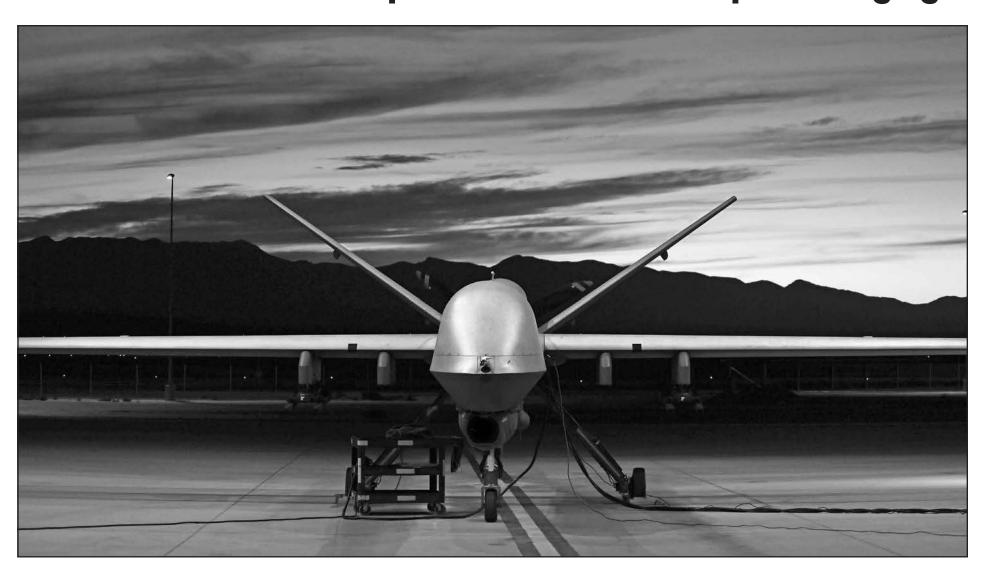
"Hill is ICBM country. We're very humbled by the opportunity we have here and very honored to do it." Collins said. "We have a lot of work ahead of us but this workforce is very driven, very committed. It means a ration and Risk Reduction lot to us. It means a lot to Hill AFB and it's going to mean a lot to this Utah community."

> Collins says it's hard to say exactly how many new jobs the program will bring to Utah but there will definitely be an increase during the decade-long overlap while GBSD is rolled out and Minuteman III remains at the ready.

> It's likely the prime contractor, support contractors and other government agencies will need workers at Hill AFB to support the GBSD program, which is scheduled to remain in service into the 2070s.



Cleared hot: When predators and reapers engage



An MQ-9 Reaper sits on the flight line Nov. 16, 2016, at Creech Air Force Base, Nev. The MQ-9 provides persistent attack and reconnaissance capabilities for combatant commanders and coalition forces involved in 24/7 year-round combat operations abroad. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class James Thompson)

By Airman 1st Class James Thompson

432nd Wing/432nd Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

CREECH AIR FORCE BASE, Nev. (AFNS) –

Following the mission brief and pre-flight checks, an aircrew consisting of an officer pilot in command and a career enlisted aviator sensor operator observe a target in an area of responsibility overseas from a cockpit in the U.S. and waits for the green light from a joint terminal attack controller on the ground.

Anticipation heightens as the JTAC confirms the target and gives the aircrew the clearance to attack. The aircrew then reviews checklists before engaging, adrenaline begins to seep in and the whirring from electronic components in the cockpit recedes from awareness. Their concentration sharpens and as the pilot squeezes the trigger, a laser-guided AGM-114 Hellfire missile is released. The sensor operator ser designator crosshairs precisely over the target and guiding the missile.

Predator and MQ-9 Reaper strikes are coordinated through specific routing chains well before weapons a 42nd Attack Squadron MQ-9 pilot. employment to ensure the fulfillment of combat dioverall rules of engagement.

ment process as those in other traditional fighter and and a judge advocate to ensure that Law of Armed bomber aircraft.

"Anytime a munition is employed or dropped by any platform to include our MQ-1s and MQ-9s, those rules of engagement must be satisfied," said Maj. Brian, the 432nd Wing/432nd Air Expeditionary Wing Weapons and Tactics assistant director of operations. "They define the specific requirements as far as who, what and when something can be targeted for the employment of a weapon."

two different types of strikes that occur in theater. One is a deliberate strike and the other is a dynamic using the designated weapon as decided by the air- to follow strict guidance in order to eliminate the target situation.

"The deliberate strikes are all targets that have been nominated, gone through a vetting process and ran through the Combined Air Operations Center for validity," said Brian. "They go through target nominations and then it's passed off to targeteers, as well as the individual units, that will execute those strikes performing close air support, regardless of the air- on the battlefield.

to conduct the weaponeering and through the CAOC, craft used. they satisfy the legal requirements in terms of ROE, weapon alignment and specific collateral damage es- tary," said Brian. "It's a joint publication that defines timation for that target.'

Upholding the laws governing the use of military force ensures that the enemy can be eliminated without harm to civilians and friendly forces while, also, strictly aligning with the Law of Armed Conflict to meet legal and moral requirements.

Brian said most of the 432nd AEW strikes are conducted in a dynamic target situation.

"Dynamic targeting is executed using close air support doctrinal procedures," said Brian. "Within the CAS doctrinal procedures, once a target is identified on the ground, a JTAC contacts the aircrew and starts to generate a plan as far as how they're going to conduct and execute that strike."

A dynamic target strike is a coordinated effort beoperations center.

"Once we've found valid targets, I'm going to Unbeknownst to most people, the multi-role MQ-1 notify the JTAC and from there he's working on his side to get approval for the strike," said Capt. Chris,

Along with communicating with the aircrew, the

"The ground force commander is working in sync target is hostile." These aircrews follow the same weapons employ- with a targeteer for collateral damage estimation Conflict in terms of proportionality, use of force and all legal requirements are satisfied," said Brian. "Once he confirms that we have a valid target and the proportionality and collateral damage estimation is acceptable based on the commander's intent and guidance, he then seeks target engagement approval authority from the first one-star in his chain of com-

Brian explained that, like other aircraft, there are commander authorizes the strike and at that point the aircrew is given clearance to then engage the target crew, Brian said.

> "When the strike is approved, he will pass me a game plan 9-line. At that time, I will brief the sensor exactly how this weapons delivery will be carried out," said Chris.

> The CAS doctrinal procedures apply to all aircrew

"It's [CAS procedures] the same for all U.S. milithose procedures and how it works."

Certain factors determined by the CAS doctrine and the varying length of time in the confirmation of targets, emphasize the need for persistent and precise attack capabilities provided by the multi-role MQ-1s and MQ-9s.

"Personally, I've eliminated enemy forces that were engaging friendlies 15 meters away, so it's extremely important to employ quickly and effectively and the MQ-9 is one of the best assets in the Air Force to accomplish this," said Chris.

The routing chain from target identification to strike can take anywhere from a few minutes to several hours depending on the significance and situation of the strike. Any strike done with a JTAC goes hones in on the objective at hand by keeping the la- tween the aircrew and a ground team within a joint through the same process regardless of what platform is employing the weapon.

"One advantage that the MQ-1 and MQ-9 has over some of our more traditional aircraft is its persistence," said Brian. "Since our mission durations are so long, we're able to maintain custody of that target for an extended period of time and provide an rectives, combatant commanders' requirements and JTAC coordinates with his ground force commander. in-depth characterization of the target, ensuring the

> Brian added, because of their sensor capabilities and persistence over a target, MQ-1 and MQ-9 aircrews are able to integrate the entire targeting process from identification to final destruction and strike evaluation into a single platform versus requiring different multiple assets to accomplish the mission.

Brian went on to say that MQ-1 and MQ-9 aircrews receive special training to understand ROE as well as the commander's guidance and intent for a particular strike; this complete understanding dem-If the situation and circumstances are aligned the onstrates a high level of proficiency in flying daily combat missions to support multiple theaters abroad.

> Taking the fight to the enemy requires all aircrews enemy and safeguard friendly and coalition forces. The aircrews flying the multi-role MQ-1s and MQ-9s follow the same doctrine in support of 24/7 combat operations daily while adding an extremely professional and precise persistent attack and reconnaissance force to the Joint and coalition team engaged

Connection saves lives: Be there to help prevent suicide

By Peter Holstein

Surgeon General Office of Public Affairs

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (AFNS) -You can make a difference for someone struggling with suicidal thoughts with as little as eye contact and a friendly smile, an arm around the shoulder, or a kind word at the right time.

Everyone has a role to play in preventing suicide, a key theme of the Defense Department's #BeThere Campaign, which encourages making a difference through every day connections.

"Connection saves lives," said Col. David Linkh, the Air Force Suicide Prevention Program manager. "Isolation, alienation and feeling of a lack of belonging places folks at risk."

concern in the U.S., and for the Armed Linkh. "Risk factors are some of the Forces. One of the most important and simplest ways to fight back against this threat is to build connections with people in your life, and make sure that people don't feel alone and isolated.

"If a fellow Airman seems to be depression or social withdrawal." struggling, make simple gestures," said Linkh. "Have lunch with them, talk to them and include them. Ask them how they are doing, or about their family. Stop by their desk and share a little bit social events and stop associating with about yourself."

In the right circumstances, those simple, everyday actions really can save a life.

Recognizing that someone is at risk of suicide isn't always possible. There isn't always an obvious or consistent sign that someone may be struggling with suicidal thoughts. People can hide or compartmentalize the underlying stress that lead to suicidal behavior, but

there are things you can watch out for. "We tend think in terms of two things Suicide is a major public health - risk factors and warning signs," said larger life factors that we sometimes see, like relationship, legal, financial or workplace issues. Warning signs are more behavior changes. That can in-

ple who are usually engaged and outgoing. It can be a concerning sign if they start avoiding eye contact, skipping family, friends or coworkers. Drug or alcohol abuse is another critical indicator that a person may be dealing with issues that could lead to self-harm.

that a wingman, supervisor or colleague know one another and go out of our might notice as well.

"Changes in work behavior, like showing up late to work, unexplained absences, or missed deadlines by folks who were previously on the spot can be concerning," said Linkh. "Really, any supportive way."

If you are concerned about a person, start by just talking to them. It may

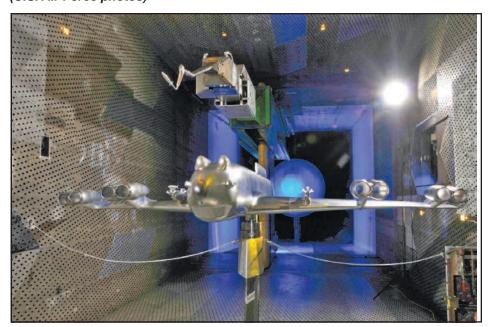
you get a sense of whether something This can be especially true for peo- is bothering them, it also reinforces relationships and can keep the person from feeling isolated. Being attentive to someone struggling with suicidal thoughts or depression can encourage them to open up and tell you that they are having trouble.

"We can't always know what our wingmen or coworkers are dealing There are some other warning signs with," said Linkh. "Taking the time to way to help each other can help change the culture. Small acts of kindness, small moments of connection can make us all safer."

For more information about suicide prevention and additional resources, change in behavior, especially one that visit the Air Force Medical Service Suisuggests the person may be struggling cide Prevention webpage, or the U.S. in areas of their life. People shouldn't Air Force Wingman Online webpage. If be afraid to engage on these issues in a you are having suicidal thoughts or are worried that someone you know may be about to engage in self-harm, call the Military Crisis Line at 1-800-273-8255 clude mood swings, irritability, anger, seem simple, but not only can it help and press "1" for assistance.

AEDC Contributions to the warfighter

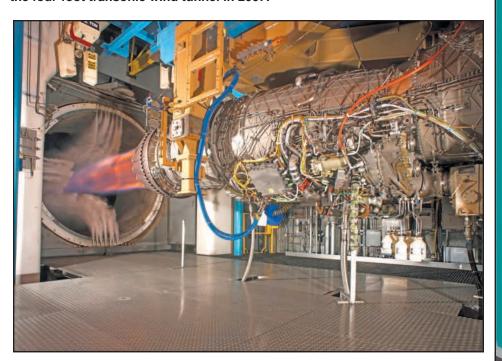
(U.S. Air Force photos)



B-52 Stratofortress tested in the AEDC Propulsion Wind Tunnel 16-foot Transonic Tunnel in 2011.



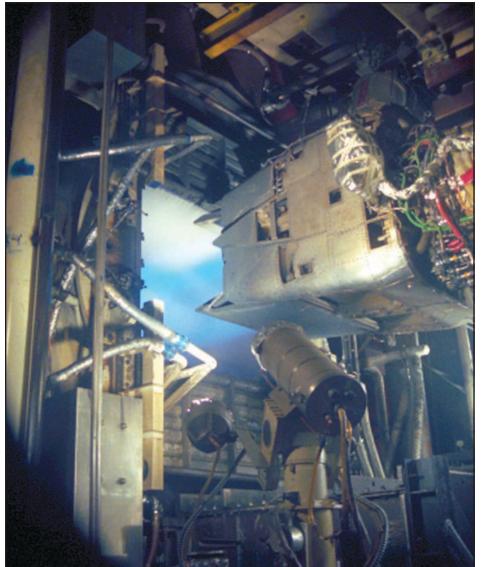
AEDC outside machinist makes adjustments to a model of a GBU-31 Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) before F-35 Lightning II store separation testing in the four-foot transonic wind tunnel in 2007.



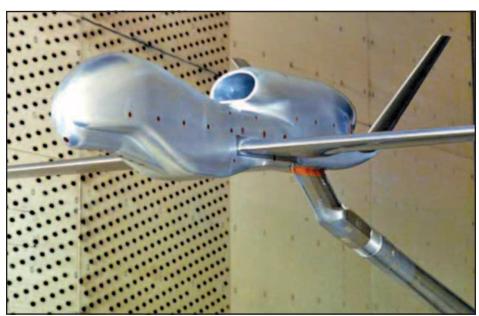
Pratt & Whitney F135 engine tested in the AEDC Engine Test Facility SL2 test cell in 2014.



A scale model of the F-22 being prepared for testing in the AEDC 16-foot transonic wind tunnel at Arnold AFB in 1992.



Pratt & Whitney YF119 prototype engine for the F-22 Raptor with a demonstrator nozzle running in the AEDC Aeropropulsion Systems Test Facility in 1989.



In 1996, a scale model of the Global Hawk was tested in the AEDC 16-foot transonic wind tunnel.



Residual Case Lot Sale Specials

While the
Case Lot Sale has
come & gone,
we still have
products left over
at GREAT PRICES!

Meat

Boneless Pork Shoulder Roasts are on sale while supplies last

Welcome to the 'Connection'

Customers now have another way of staying connected to their commissary benefit, even when they're not in the store.

That's because DeCA has launched an official blog managed by its consumer advocate, Courtney Rogers.

Called "Commissary Connection," the blog regularly features commissary news, human interest stories, shopping tips, videos and notifications about programs and events.

It's hosted on DoDLive, the Department of Defense WordPress blogging network.

COMMISSARY BRANDS ARRIVING AT STORES AS WORLDWIDE ROLLOUT BEGINS

Commissary brands began their debut on U.S. store shelves in May, ushering the Defense Commissary Agency into a new era of patron savings.

"We are excited to finally begin offering commissary brands," said DeCA Director and CEO Joseph H. Jeu.



The initial rollout started at the end of May with bottled water for commissaries in the U.S. Plastic bags and paper products were soon to follow.



Overseas stores are expected to see commissary brand items in the September timeframe. Visit our web site to find out more.

STORE HOURS
SUN & MON Closed
TUE 9AM - 5:30PM
WED 9AM - 5:30PM
THU 9AM - 6:30PM

FOL

9ам - 5:30рм

SAT 8AM - 4:30PM

Patrick S. Jourdan | 931.454.3546 STORE DIRECTOR | DSN:340.3546 Patrick. Jourdan@deca.mil OTHER IMPORTANT NUMBERS
(931) 454- PLUS EXT.
DSN: 340- PLUS EXT.
GROCERY x5921



Heard, leaving how he arrived

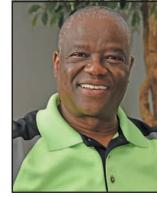
By Raquel March

AEDC Public Affairs

After working almost 45 years for AEDC at Arnold, software engineer Tommie Heard is crossing over to test the retirement waters.

As he sat in the Administration and Engineering building lobby for the last time, he remembered how it all started for him at AEDC – in the lobby.

"I came to AEDC with a friend who had an interview," he said. "While I waited in the A&E lobby for my friend, the man conducting the interview approached me and asked wasn't looking for a job when I came here."



Tommie Heard

Heard remembered that he wasn't dressed for an interview because he wore bell-bottom jeans and a large afro. He was offered a job and began working as a technical assistant July 16, 1972.

Heard is a resident of if I wanted to interview. I Murfreesboro. His last day at AEDC was June 23.



AEDC software engineer Tommie Heard remembers his first day at Arnold Air Force Base almost 45 years ago as he departs on his retirement day June 23. (U.S. Air Force photo/Rick Goodfriend)

AEDC Milestones



Janice Willis 45 years

45 YEARS Mike Bennett, Quati-Anthony Taylor, NAS Janice Willis, NAS

35 YEARS Clara Sanders, NAS

25 YEARS Ashley Dement, NAS

William Isbell, NAS

10 YEARS

Tammy Denton, Chugach Robert Hale, NAS Jennifer Johnson, Chugach Alan Jones, AF Ezra Perkins, NAS Kimberly Smith, NAS

5 YEARS Robert Hurt Jr., NAS

INBOUND MILI-

Capt. Janet Ashitey Lt. Col. Andrew Barker Col. Scott Cain Lt. Col. David Hoffman

OUTBOUND MILI-TARY

Lt. Col. Daniel Watson

RETIREMENTS Charles Bryant, NAS Stuart Coulter, NAS

Jimmy Harman, Chugach Tommie Heard, NAS Charles Lester, NAS James Nichols, AF Stephen Northcutt,

Jeffery Utley, NAS

NEW HIRES Jack Burdine, NAS Lance Grossarth, NAS Heather Kostak, AF

NAS Jesse Peery, NAS Barry Porter, NAS Dane Rape, NAS Chelsea Stovall, AF Stephen Vannoy, NAS Michael Vasquez, AF Chris Warner, AF David Yoder, Quanti-Tech

Karen Zarecor, QuantiTech

Benjamin Manipadam, PROMOTIONS

Gary Fulmer, ASO Warner Holt, ASO Jeff Stewart, ASO

CERTIFICATES

Susan Drinnon, Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP), AF

Christine Hughes, Certification from Air Command and Staff College

Physical therapists keep service members fit to fight

By Tech. Sgt. Jonathan Hehnly

386th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

SOUTHWEST ASIA (AFNS) - In a deployed environment, injuries hap- military, and their ability to to fight.

pen. Whether they occur in perform their duties, plays

the performance of duty or an important role in the sucthrough the course of physices of the greater mission. cal exercise, they have the For the two-man physical potential to impact the mis- therapy element at the 386th Air Expeditionary Wing, it is Each individual in the their role to keep members fit

Expeditionary security forces members armed. Our mission is pertinent in terms of keeping the mission running."

The physical therapy relatively new, with its establishment in January 2016. Prior to its implementation, injured members would either have to travel to the nearest Army clinic for treatment, deal with the minor injury, which often caused it to get worse, or in the most severe cases, be deemed not home.

doing what he can to help keep the service members of tion forces, in the fight.

injury along with helping the member actually get better and return to duty quicker,"

keep guys working," said if physical therapy was not Capt. Grant Tong, the 386th available, an injured member Medical would suffer an injury that Group physical therapy ele- could have been resolved ment chief. "When injuries way earlier, and then when occur, we help them return to they get back home, an injuduty as quickly as possible. ry that could have been very We help decrease the down minor turns into something days for fliers and keep the very large and exponential."

Tong and Tech. Sgt. David Garcia, the 386th EMDG physical therapy NCO in charge, provide an array of services to support the perclinic at the 386th AEW is manent party population of two wings and the transient personnel passing through on their way to and from downrange.

The physical therapy clinic's services include musculoskeletal evaluation and treatment, rehabilitative exercise, stretching, neuromuscular education, postural fit to fight and therefore sent awareness and therapy for pain management. They also Tong said he believes in offer clinical expertise in orthopedics, strength and conditioning, trigger point dry all four branches, and coalineedling and manual therapy.

"We are one of the most "Physical therapy can utilized services here at the decrease the severity of the medical facility," said Garcia. "Some people come out here and start training a little harder trying to reach their

"What we do is actually said Tong. "A lot of times fitness goals and they may not be doing the exercises correctly. It's important to have our team on board so we can keep these guys fit to do things safely while they are achieving their goals and to ensure that they can continue doing their jobs they've been tasked to do out here as

> Anyone can make use of the physical therapy services offered, even if they are not injured. The clinic provides preventive care classes and information on lifting form and techniques and weekly foam rolling and squat class-

> "The physical therapy clinic holds classes on those types of things so even if you are not specifically injured you gain a lot of information that you can take back home to your home station and can continue to maintain throughout your career," said Staff Sgt. Melanie Hernandez, a 386th EMDG physical therapy clinic patient.

> On a day-to -day basis Garcia and Tong see approximately 20 patients a day, providing care to everyone from special operatives to the Airman working in the dining facility. Being the only Air Force physical therapy clinic in the region, it saw more than 1,200 patient visits in the past four months, breaking its own record by servicing over 75 people more per month than the two previous rotations.

> "When we are not out here handling the mission we have the time to work on personal goals and part of that is maintaining physical fitness," said Hernandez. "Having physical therapy out here teaches you how to do everything that you are trying to do and how to maintain the physical standards but doing it in the right way so that you are not prone to injury. The Air Force wants you top notch 24/7 and physical therapy helps you do that."

